

# Conservation Conversation

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December 2023

## Conservation District Annual Meeting

The 74th Annual Meeting of the Barber County Conservation District is scheduled for January 27, 2024 at the Heritage Center in Medicine Lodge.

According to Conservation District Law, each conservation district is required to have an annual meeting to provide full disclosure of district activities/accomplishments and financial affairs, as well as hold an election of supervisors whose terms have expired.

The terms of Calvin Boyd and Ann Cargill are expiring this year; both supervisors have agreed to run for re-election to another three year term. Voting is conducted by secret ballot of the qualified electors (U.S. citizen and 18 years of age or older) of the district present at the annual meeting.

Awards to winners of the annual poster contest will be presented, as well as a Bankers Award.

We are pleased to announce that Britayne Rucker, morning anchor and reporter for KWCH news, will be the featured speaker this year.

Yur Place will begin serving a delicious catered meal at 6:00 PM, provided by the banks of Barber County: The Peoples Bank, Citizens Bank of Kansas, N.A. , and Alva State Bank & Trust Company (Kiowa).

Contact the Conservation Office by January 22, 2024 to make your reservations!

## Local Working Group To Hold Meeting

Mark your calendar to attend the Local Working Group Meeting on February 29, 2024, 10:00 AM at the USDA Service Center in Medicine Lodge. The Local Working Group meeting is a great opportunity to open the lines of communication and help us learn what conservation issues are impacting your farming and ranching operations.

It is important that you have the opportunity to let your voice be heard in an effort to impact programs and policies representative of *local* issues and priorities in the conservation arena. Give us a call at the conservation office, talk to your conservation district board members. Let us know if you are interested in attending a meeting. We would welcome your input in seeing that the Local Working Group is functioning as a supportive, well-informed representative of Barber County landowners and producers.

### Board of Supervisors

Calvin Boyd, Chairman  
Matt Cantrell, Vice-Chairman  
John Cook, Treasurer  
Ted Alexander, Member  
Ann Cargill, Member

Regular Meetings of the Barber County Conservation District Board are held the first Tuesday of each month.

### Dates to Remember:

December 25—Christmas Day (office closed)  
January 1, 2024—New Year's Day (office closed)  
January 15, 2024—Martin Luther King, Jr Birthday (office closed)  
January 27, 2024—Conservation District Annual Meeting  
February 19, 2024—George Washington Birthday (observed)  
February 29, 2024—Local Working Group Meeting

## Barber County Proud!

Conservation leaders from across Kansas recently gathered for the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) in Wichita, drawing over 360 attendees for the three-day event. The Annual KACD Convention wrapped up with the conservation awards banquet celebrating a year of conservation success and outstanding service. Barber County was proud to be recognized with the following awards:

Max Nichols and Russell Blew were awarded the **Kansas Grasslands Merit Award** which highlights an individual, organization, or business providing exceptional service and support to the conservation management and education of Kansas grasslands. The landscape on the acres Max owns have undergone a very recognizable transformation and one that Russell is eager to share with others by way of tours and demonstrations. Because of their on-going efforts in restoring health and vigor to these rangelands, their successful improvement and management, as well as dedication to educational outreach, Max Nichols and Russell Blew are well deserving of this award.



Russell Blew and Max Nichols with KACD Area 5 Director, Daryl Donohue



Calvin Boyd with KACD Area 3 Director, Jerry Clasen

Calvin Boyd is the recipient of the **2023 KACD Outstanding Supervisor Award**. Calvin was elected to the Board of Supervisors in January 1990. He is currently our Board Chairman and has served in this capacity on a rotational basis, as well as Vice-Chairman and Treasurer. His dedication to the strength and success of the conservation board and its mission to educate and assist landowners in achieving their conservation goals is apparent in his faithful and deliberate commitment to represent Barber County. As one NRCS employee put it, “Calvin always participates and seems to try and do what’s right for everyone, not only for himself.” That character trait is what strengthens each and every working group in which he involves himself. Calvin doesn’t “sit” on boards and committees; he “serves”.



Addyson Bryan 10-12 Grade

As first place winners at the local level, Addyson Bryan and Brooklynne Miller competed with students in their respective grade divisions across the state. Addyson placed first in state. Her entry has been sent to compete at the national level: results of that competition are unknown at this time.



Brooklynne Miller 7-9 Grade

Brooklynne received Honorable Mention in her grade division. Both posters were highlighted at the KACD Convention. Great job girls!

## **Application Deadline For Inflation Reduction Act**

Kansas USDA-NRCS is currently taking applications for Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) programs. Applications for IRA include climate smart agricultural practices for crop land which include planting crop land back into a native or Bermuda grass state. Applications need to be submitted by **January 19, 2024**. Please contact the local NRCS office with conservation questions or concerns on producing lands . Requesting technical assistance or inquiring about programs before making application is highly recommended.

## **State Cost Share Programs For FY 2024**

July 1, 2023 marked the beginning of the State of Kansas' fiscal year 2024. At that time the District received funds for the administration of three State Cost Share Programs. Following are the practices and allocations for each program:

### WATER RESOURCES COST-SHARE PROGRAM (WRCSP)

Initial Allocation \$29,224.52

Additional Funds Allocation \$61,696.73

- 1—pasture & hayland planting: \$10,000.
- 1—permanent fencing: \$10,000.
- 8—livestock water developments to include solar pumping plant, livestock water tanks, livestock water wells: \$70,971.65.

### NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM (NPS)

Initial Allocation \$9694.60

Additional Funds Allocation \$6236.03

- 2—on-site wastewater system repairs: \$5000.
- 1—livestock water development: \$10,000
- 2—abandoned well decommissioning: \$930.63

### Riparian & Wetland Protection Program (RW)

- 1—wetland development: \$5000.

Applications for these programs are taken throughout the year with an application deadline of April 30, and funding available July 1 each year. Early application helps NRCS with proper planning and technical assistance scheduling.

: *"Funding provided by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund ."*